

Fiat Money.

several comments I would like to make of interest in your last issue, as your space is limited, as your space

is hoped that "Inquirer" replies, "Some of us do not see much management that brings such hard the present, so soon after the terrible of '73-78."

With the trade and standard dollar issues, what other money can we have in "flat money?" And so long as four cents worth of copper will buy one dollar worth of postage stamps, or any other goods you may want, who objects to "flat money," or doubts its efficacy? E. L. S. Southington, Conn., Sept. 15.

Comment on "Ancient History."

To the Editor.

Your correspondent, C. N. Bovee, makes a very fair presentation of the creditable facts in the history of the Republican party, which the writer has no desire to belittle, as he has been a life-long member thereof, and is proud of its record, but in appealing to "Ancient History" to justify what some of us believe to be modern corruption, is he not begging the whole question at issue, which is the moral fitness or unfitness of Mr. James G. Blaine to represent that party; following which in logical sequence is the question, does not an endorsement of Mr. Blaine indicate a lowering of the tone of the party, and an affiliation with selfish and unworthy schemers at its expense?

All students of history know that long continued and irrepressible power begets indifference to principle and corruption in action, and the Republican party is no exception to the rule, as is shown by its action on the silver question, River and Harbor Bill, Chinese question, etc., and by the acts of Belknap, Babcock, Robeson, Blaine and others.

It is with sadness and gloom that some of those who cherish the memory of the Republican party, and who detest the unpatriotic record of the Democratic party, are forced to decide between endorsing what we believe to be fatal to the life and usefulness of the party that we love, or directly or indirectly aiding the party that we distrust and hate.

Sneering at "Pharisees," ridicule and blackguardism of those who differ in opinion with the majority will not make that opinion any larger nor will pointing to the Republican victory in Maine prove Mr. Blaine innocent of lying, stealing, or corruption, all of which he is guilty of, as is instanced in his connection with the "Mulligan letters," in the judgment of many who admire his unquestioned ability, and who would gladly support him but for this unfortunate episode in his history.

The facts in connection with these letters are generally avoided, or misrepresented by Mr. Blaine's supporters. And he is claimed to have been vindicated by the Committee of Congress appointed to investigate the charge against him, which is not true, or else it is claimed that he has been vindicated, as Mr. Bovee would vindicate the Republican party to-day, by appeal to the ancient history of the charges, and if these are insufficient, we are told that Mr. Blaine has been elected Senator, made Secretary of State, and was the intimate and confidential friend and admirer of the lamented Garfield, and therefore must be innocent; and as thousands of other good men high in the councils of the party have endorsed him, therefore it is preposterous in others to doubt him. But dispute all this, "the damned spot will not out."

The writer has no desire to prove Mr. Blaine guilty, but in the face of the fact that he refused to make a defence before the Committee, and of the admissions that he made in his own defense before the House, and the further fact that the defense was an *ex parte* statement, he cannot believe him innocent, and therefore does not believe that his election would benefit the Republican party.

In the State of New York the scandals connected with the Conkling-Platt-Arthur episode resulted in the overwhelming defeat of Judge Folger, a confessedly able and upright man, as a candidate for Governor, and what will say that the Republican party is not purer and better because of that chastening?

In the judgment of the writer the defeat of an unworthy candidate is one of the least evils that may happen to the party nationally; and believing that it is capable of great benefit to the country if kept from the control of selfish and designing men, he desires above success in the approaching election a record that will insure it a long and merited lease of power. E. A. S.

A Correction.

New York, Sept. 18th, 1884.

Please to state, in your next issue, that the article in your previous number over the signature of C. N. Bovee was not by that gentleman, but by Mr. C. N. Bovee, Jr.

An admirer of the author, as well as of his able article, I am unwilling to take to myself any part of the credit, very justly due to him, for his admirable presentation of his subject. Besides, as an exhaustive—not exhausting—treatment of the subject, the article fails to fully represent the attitude of my mind towards the Republican party, which the article is of course designed to support.

To explain that attitude, so far as it is worth while. I am not a "Blaine kicker."

We can forgive the absence of truth in some statements for the wit in them, but there is neither truth nor wit in any suggestion that I am a "Blaine kicker." I am not, and never have been, "a Blaine man," in any other sense than as an admirer of his brilliant ability, and therefore I am not, and never have been, "a party man," in any other sense than as a party deserter, in holding myself, just now, at liberty, after having voted with the Republican, for years, to overlook the political field, preliminary to voting in the direction of my conscience and judgment. Truly, I am not, and never have been, any part of the personal property of any man or party, and therefore I have not "sold out," and don't mean, if I can help it, to be "sold out." The men who wear party badges are the men most likely to "sell out" the party, unless they are too stupid to change their politics. Party allegiance is a phrase. Having once been a fool, is no reason for being always a fool—a fool of a Democrat, or a fool of a Republican, if there is such a thing.

Ticketed and labelled as of this or that party, you can count upon most voters' so-called political support or opposition in gross; for their opinions, to call their notions by that name, are very gross. Take the opinions of the working men of this country, for instance. What do they count for? Their votes count for much, but their votes don't follow their opinions, since they don't seem to have any that are not made up for them outside of themselves, by party managers and political tricksters and jugglers. Where are the men of their own class who speak for them in our legislative halls? Where are their representatives in the various offices of the country of their own class? They are contented to be deprived of all these; and for what? Party allegiance! So, please, don't count on my "party allegiance."

But to turn again to my son's article. I find it, as a father's partiality leads me to consider it to be, an able review or resume of the great services of the Republican party to the country during a most important period of its financial history, and in effecting, through its representatives, in the markets of the world, and upon such favorable terms, such a tremendous series of loans.

But it ought not to be forgotten though my son has been silent on the grandeur of this branch of his subject, that this vast financial success was chiefly due to the splendid patriotism of all parties at the North, and to the wonderful exhibit of the power and resources of that only one half of our great country, and the determination of its people to maintain, at every cost of expenditure of blood and treasure, the incalculable blessing of the unity of the government. Certainly this ought, in fairness, to have been suggested.

Again—I admire my son's article for its ability; but I also clearly see that it is open to such formidable questions as what has become of all these vast sums, and into whose hands have the hundreds of millions gone, over and above the expenses of the war, for which and following which the national obligations were issued, if not into the hands of rapacious bankers, enriched monopolies, (a monopoly being a perverted franchise, forfeited when the object for which it was granted are too far disregarded), dissolute politicians of the bankers, senators and representative class, bumbustious Fifth Avenue club loafers, do-nothing parasites upon society fellows, and the like, and which of the two great parties is chiefly responsible for these things, and for such gatherings up into windrows of the wealth of the country, leaving such vast interstices of destitution, as we witness? Surely, success in getting is one thing, discretion in appropriation quite another. Thinking of these things, "Ah! my son," I feel inclined to say—"I have but one exception to take to your article, namely, that it is without sufficient heart. There is plenty of heat in it; plenty of figures; but the reasoner who bases his reasoning upon figures must be careful to see that there are not more or too formidable figures on the other side."

But I will say nothing of the kind, concerning that such a chilling wind of nipping criticism from the cold north sea of an old fellow's mind, blowing over a young fellow's figures and flowers of rhetoric, would not be appropriate. What I will say, however, is this—"My son, if you wish to give your father a greater pleasure, put into your articles or speeches something of the wise forecast, and the good feeling, contained in a little extract from one of your friends Gen. Woodford's speeches. The general is wise enough to see that there is great movement of popular thought and feeling in this country as well as elsewhere, outside of old party lines, and that this has got to be taken notice of by all sagacious public men, aspiring to be popular leaders; and don't you fail to place yourself also on that side—the wise as well as generous side—the side of the people."

The extract from Gen. Woodford's speech spoken of is as follows: "The common people see that our laws permit and our courts protect great systems of monopoly, great and growing combinations of capital and whole-sale robberies of private rights by giant corporations, which are gradually, but surely, becoming the feudal estate in our body politic. The composite party at whose head Gen. Butler stands, is the first crystallization of a gathering protest. The State must deal wisely with these questions of capital and labor, or they will some day deal very terribly with the State."

Writing in the spirit of these words, I would have my son consider more seriously (reconsidering his present views) whether protection (which he advocates so strenuously in his speeches) is not a fallacious good to the manufacturing class, a positive prejudice to the farming class, and generally to the more generous principle of force in the sense of fair trade; to support more correctly, as tending to bring out the truths of these conclusions, and other important truths, the establishment of labor bureaus and bureaus of statistics, State and National, on broader bases; to speak more for representation, in many ways now neglected, of the interests of the producing as opposed to the consuming classes; to favor taxation by law, on grounds of natural law and justice, of excessive hours of work; to advocate more equal distributions among the different classes of society of the hon-

ors and emoluments and representation of office, to oppose further alienation of the public lands to foreign and domestic land grabbers; to advocate the calling into court and to account more or less of the great monopolies, that beset the land, to show cause why their franchises should not be forfeited for non-user or abuse, under the legal principle that every franchise granted, where the rights and interests of the people are concerned, is subject to the implied obligation that these rights and interests shall be reasonably respected, and the like.

So much for National politics. And as to State politics, I would have him favor the passage of such a law in New Jersey as the railroad law in Massachusetts, under which the Eastern railroad runs workingmen's morning and evening trains from Boston to Lynn, twelve miles—just the distance from New York to Bloomfield—for five cents, putting the rate in New Jersey over double the fare on the Massachusetts road; a law that would be a good law for New York State as well as New Jersey, as helping to relieve New York City from the dire evils of over-crowded population, and promote considerably the interests of its surrounding towns and villages; a law that would do more to relieve Elizabeth from the burden of its debt, and to put adjacent towns out of it, than almost any other measure, and the like here too.

As to which of the presidential candidates now in the field I would have my son support, assuming that my preference would have any weight with him,—well, the country is embarrassed as to the number of its candidates for office, and singularly impoverished as to the quality of them. I would not have my son support Mr. St. John, of course, for, though a saint, Mr. St. John is only a respectable ghost, so thin and shadowing is he. No; he is not even a ghost. A ghost is a person who makes a sensation, by appearing and commanding our attention after his death. After Mr. St. John's political death as a presidential candidate, and resurrection as some other candidate, I would have my son vote for him, for he is a respectable man representing a respectable party, but its platform is too narrow, and consists of only one plank, and that a spring board, from which to jump into the sea. And, as your Mr. Halsey Barrett once said, with his usual acuteness, politically one cannot be going forever onward with plasters to put upon every sore of every sore head, or every sore place on the body politic. Certainly, drunkenness is a great evil, but it is only one of many evils, and it is not to be cured by any one remedy, like that of prohibition and a prohibition candidate for the presidency.

As to General Butler—I have great confidence that my son will not support that confidence man, General Butler. I have not myself any great confidence in General Butler. Who has? Not that he is such an unclean person politically as the Thersites of politics say he is. He makes clean work of it, at all events, in some things; if not with "the spoons," certainly with his opponents, on occasions. He represents, too, largely, what is going to be a very formidable party in the future, if things go on altogether as of old,—the protest of the country against both parties, both politicians and both platforms, besides the interests of labor are advanced and advancing thought. But personally he is a poor representative of those interests, though I hope he will poll a large vote, mainly from the Democratic party, as the chief head and front of this, I think, General Butler is "Punchinello," playing Hamlet, Scaramoche masquerading as Prince Prettyman, or Sucho Panza after jolling in the Governor's chair waiting to step into the President's. Or, more seriously, General Butler is a great figure, with a spirit to exercise devils, but to replace them with greater devils.

Least of all, would I have my son support Mr. Cleveland. Speaking for my single self, as Cassius says, Mr. Cleveland killed himself when he killed the car drivers' bill. Not that I doubt he acted conscientiously. My quarrel is with his heart, not his head. He must have been a cold-hearted man, to have vetoed that bill. It is an outrage against humanity to work any man more than twelve hours a day. He failed to feel that, and at least to speak to that effect, in connection with his veto. But no; he "smelt that business with a scorn as cold as a dead man's nose." He had the ear of the country, as Governor of a great State on a great occasion, and he might have put into it words of sympathy, for the overworked and underpaid, that would have made the ear of the overworkers and the underpaiders tingle with shame at hearing of them,—men who work their white slaves sixteen hours a day,—double the natural division of eight hours for work, eight for recreation and study, and eight for rest.

Of what advantage to the country is it that we have abolished slavery in the South, if we are to have it established in the North? We have damned politically the black slave-holders; we will deserve damnation ourselves if we permit this great violation of natural law and natural justice, antithesizing that great definition of justice of Justenian,—"Justice is the constant and perpetual wish to render to every man his due." If Grover Cleveland had felt that he never would have vetoed that car bill; it stamped him, at least in the manner of it, as a man of insufficient sense of justice.

And lastly as to Mr. Blaine. No words of mine, or of anyone, will prevent my son from supporting him. Nothing, indeed, but Mr. Blaine's proved venality. And I shall not lament over that support. Mr. Blaine is pretty certain to be elected, I think, with or without his vote, or mine, if nothing further is proved against him. And though not the man of my choice, if the nation's choice, I shall not esteem it a calamity. Personally, he is the superior of two at least of the three candidates: warm-hearted, where Cleveland is cold-hearted; faithful at least to his friends, while Butler can only be counted on to be faithful to himself; self-seeking, but all politicians are that; and, though smirched, so little unclean all over that I have read the Post pamphlet and acquired him of its charges, and if an active Republican politician, would favor the circulation of the pamphlet itself as a campaign document, esteeming Mr. Phelps's letter, embodied in it, as a sufficient defence to its charges of gross veracity.

So thinks, at least, without meaning himself to vote for Mr. Blaine, a matter of settled purpose, THE OLD GENTLEMAN.

When a pretty Irish girl is stolen away, they suspect some boycotter.

A Good Record.

Again it is necessary to remind the enemies of the Republican party that there has been less thieving among public officials in this country under Republican administrations than under any previous ones, and the sums handled have been enormous during the last twenty years and more. Here is a table of comparative losses on each \$1,000 received and disbursed under some of the presidents. It is made up from the government records.

Van Buren	losses \$11.71 on \$1,000
Jackson	" 7.56 "
Polk	" 4.08 "
Bachman	" 3.81 "
Lincoln	" .76 "
Johnson	" .57 "
Grant	" .03 on 10,000
Arthur	" .18 on 100,000

These figures speak for themselves. They will go for nothing, of course, with the calculators of the Republican party, but they will furnish all honest men with an argument that they can use to refute false charges.

She was in humble circumstances, but she was a Boston girl for all that. "Yes, papa is a unicyclist," she remarked to the railroad reporter whom she met on an excursion train, "indeed?" responded the young gentleman addressed, very much concerned to know what a unicyclist might be, but very much afraid of exposing his Western rawness by asking. From a Boston young man on the train it was learned that "papa" imparted the desired impetus to a wheel barrow used in connection with city improvements.

They sat side by side on the car, talking of politics, and presently the man in the white plug hat inquired, "Colonel, whom do you consider the greatest living orator?" The colonel laughed, stroked his chin whiskers, and made reply. At the end of the block he got off without a word, and a passenger on the other side leaned forward and said to the white hat man, "That's a very pretty blunder you made. Why, he's the very man himself." "Is that so?" gasped the other, and he ran to the platform to watch him out of sight.

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Dr. David Kennedy, London, N. Y.

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